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Farm Broadcasters Letter



PROCUREMENT SECTION
CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

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U.S. WHEAT SHIPMENTS & SALES

As of October 15, U.S. wheat shipments and sales for 1987/88 total 19 million 500 thousand metric tons, compared to 15 million 300 thousand metric tons to date a year ago, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. U.S. shipments and sales increased 2 million 200 thousand tons over the previous month. The leading buyers were China, 647,000 metric tons...Egypt, 262,000 metric tons...Morocco, 310,000 metric tons...Bangladesh, 82,000 metric tons...The USSR, 75,000 metric tons.

FEWER SOYBEANS IN STOCK

The monthly soybean prices in Central Illinois rose seasonally from \$4.74 a bushel in March to a June high of \$5.45, prompting some Government sales. Prices averaged \$5.08 a bushel in September, the first month of the new crop year. Throughout 1987/88 an effective price floor will be maintained by the \$4.77-a-bushel loan rate. The September 1 stocks report placed 1987/88 beginning stocks at 436 million bushels, most under loan or Government owned, leaving commercial stocks a tight 39 million bushels. Harvest prices may remain high enough to move 1987 soybeans into commercial stocks and away from the loan program, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

DROUGHT IN EASTERN EUROPE

Drought conditions in much of Eastern Europe have diminished corn crop prospects and increased the likelihood that some 2 million metric tons of corn or barley will have to be imported from outside of Eastern Europe, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There could be additional opportunity for U.S. corn exports to the whole East European market. For example, Yugoslavia imported U.S. corn earlier this season for the first time in 5 years.

U.S. WHEAT TO SOME IMPORTING COUNTRIES

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the following are some developments in wheat importing countries: The U.S. has regained its position as a major wheat supplier to Poland. Shipments during 1987/88 are expected to reach about 500,000 metric tons....U.S. wheat exports to Brazil are expected to be down as a result of Brazil's improved 1987 crop prospects and its bilateral agreement commitments to purchase wheat from Argentina and Canada. ...U.S. wheat sales to Chile for 1987/88 are estimated to be little more than 26,000 metric tons already sold, a dramatic reduction over the previous 3-year average of 430,000 metric tons. Chile is shifting from being a major importer to an exporter.

**U.S. WHEAT TO
WEST AFRICA**

Under the Export Enhancement Program, the U.S. has gained a growing market share in the West African region, excluding Nigeria, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. French wheat has dominated this 1 million 500 thousand metric ton wheat market. U.S. exports have gone from less than 50,000 metric tons in prior years to an estimated 380,000 metric tons exported in 1986/87. Currently, 380,000 metric tons remain outstanding under the Enhancement Program for these destinations.

**U.S. CORN
SHIPMENTS &
SALES**

U.S. corn shipments and sales for the current marketing year, 1987/88, total 10 million 700 thousand metric tons as of October 15, an increase of 3 million 800 thousand metric tons over last year's shipments and sales to date, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The leading buyers were Japan, 902,300 metric tons...China, 175,000...Mexico, 242,000...and S. Korea, 445,000 metric tons.

**OILSEED CRUSHING
IN FRANCE**

France plans to build a \$40 million oilseed crushing plant at the port of Sete in southern France, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The European Community is reportedly offering a \$5 million 600 thousand subsidy to help finance the plant. The plant's crushing capacity will be 400,000 tons, and it will be able to crush soybeans, rapeseed and sunflowerseed. Vegetable oil production is forecast at 150,000 tons annually, with crushing operations expected to begin in May-June 1989.

**FARM ASSETS -
1986**

The total value of farm assets, excluding farm household assets, fell 8 percent to \$692 billion as of December 31, 1986, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The total value includes a drop in farm real estate values of \$48 billion 800 million to \$510 billion 100 million.

**FARM EXPENSES
DROP**

Farm production expenses for 1986 fell to \$122 billion 100 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Accounting for most of the drop were: Large reductions in interest paid, capital consumption, and the cost of manufactured inputs such as fuel and fertilizer.

**NET FARM INCOME
UP IN 1986**

The net farm income rose in 1986 to \$37 billion 500 million, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Net farm income includes all net cash income components and noncash income and expense items, such as home consumption of farm products, benefits to hired labor in addition to salary, depreciation of farm capital, gross rental value and expenses associated with the farm dwelling, and the value of inventory change.

**FARM NET CASH
INCOME UP**

The net cash income of farmers from farming increased by \$4 billion 700 million in 1986 to \$52 billion, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Net cash income is the difference between gross cash income and cash expenses. It rose because farmers reduced cash outlays by 8.7 percent and received over 50 percent more in direct Government payments. By comparison, in the 1978-84 period, annual net cash income was between \$33 and \$39 billion.

**REA GETS EARLY
LOAN PAYOFFS**

Fifty rural electric and telephone utilities have repaid \$428 million to the U.S. Treasury under a program that allowed the utilities a discount for early repayment of their loan balances with the Rural Electrification Administration of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In repaying their federal loans under terms of the program, the companies have established independence from the government, and should be able to borrow more easily from private markets because of the companies' improved financial positions.

**ALTERNATIVE
PROCEDURE FOR
WHEAT EXCHANGE**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced an alternative procedure for exchanging generic certificates for wheat listed in the Commodity Credit Corporation catalog. Those interested will be invited to submit bids for specified quantities of CCC-owned wheat listed in the catalog that will be available for exchange with certificates. CCC may revise the quantities offered from week to week and reserves the right to reject any or all bids. Contact Collyn Peterson (816) 926-6406, Kansas City, Mo., or Ronald Burgess (202) 447-4966, Washington, D.C.

**FROM OUR RADIO
SERVICE**

AGRICULTURE USA #1588...(Weekly 13½ min documentary) Some experts at the USDA think fish farming may be a viable option for many U.S. farmers and USDA is putting money into a demonstration project to prove it. Brenda Curtis reports from Chestertown, Md., the site of a new demonstration farm that will raise a fish called the Hybrid Striped Bass.

AGRITAPE/FARM PROGRAM REPORT #1577...(Weekly reel of news features) USDA news highlights; New surplus wheat bid program; The turkey "crash"; Farming the Hybrid striped bass; Tobacco's future.

CONSUMER TIME #1068...(Weekly reel of 2½-3 min features) Turkey prices; Cutting back on fat; Indoor asparagus; The "cold" turkey approach; Seafood makes sense.

USDA RADIO NEWS SERVICE...Fri, Nov. 13, Farm labor, Milk production, Cotton and wool outlook; Mon, Nov. 16, Cattle on feed; Tues, Nov. 17, Crop and weather update; Wed, Nov. 18, Agricultural outlook; Fri, Nov. 20, Catfish production, Feed situation. Dial the USDA National News Line 202-488-8358 or 8359. All material changed at 5 p.m. ET each working day.

TELEVISION SERVICE programs, A BETTER WAY, DOWN TO EARTH, AGRICULTURAL UPDATE and SATELLITE NEWS are available on satellite Westar IV, Audio 6.2 or 6.8 as follows:

Thursdays....AG UPDATE/SATELLITE NEWS, 7:30-7:45 p.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

Saturdays....A BETTER WAY, 10:00-10:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X
 ORIGINAL DOWN TO EARTH, 10:30-11:00 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X
 UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 11:00-11:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 9X

Mondays.....A BETTER WAY, 8:00-8:30 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D
 REPEAT DOWN TO EARTH, 8:30-9:00 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D
 UPLINK SATELLITE NEWS/AG UPDATE, 9:00-9:15 a.m. ET.....Transponder 12D

A BETTER WAY is also available on The Learning Channel SATCOM 3R, Transponder 2, Audio 6.8 each Friday 11:00 a.m. ET.

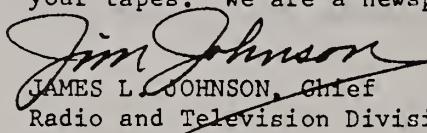
OFF MIKE

The 1987 Yearbook of Agriculture, "Our American Land" is off the presses, and we have a limited supply of free copies available. The book covers all aspects of the ownership and use of our nation's land, from the early Colonial times to the impacts of recent technology and legislation. If you'd like a copy, let us know ... We received a copy of the radio PSA's for National Farm-City Week from Herb Plambeck this week. He was chairman for the NAFB project again this year and as usual did an excellent job of collecting and distributing the PSA's. He also added a note, saying something to the effect that he's now fully retired (almost), then listed some of his activities, i.e. 2 broadcasts a week on KRNT, Des Moines, two or three articles a month for Wallaces Farmer, PSA's for American Lung Assoc., Living History Farms, World Ag Expo,....but then you get the idea. You can see why Herb says he's "almost" fully retired ... We love getting your newsletters, mostly because of the bits and

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pieces of information about you they provide. Like for instance the latest from the WIBW Farm News Department in Topeka, KS. It reports that the early morning "Ag Issues" program, produced by the WIBW Farm Staff (Kelly Lenz, Kathy Patton, and Paul Pippert) was selected for the 4th year in a row the Best Metro Agriculture Program in Kansas by the Kansas Association of Broadcasters. The staff also received a special "Friends of County Agents" award. And Kelly will receive the "Honorary American Farmer Degree" at the FFA Convention in Kansas City. Our congratulations! ... Phil Villa-Lobos in the News Division here in the Office of Information, produces a weekly radio Hispanic Information Service. One tape goes to KPIK, Colorado Springs, CO. He received this letter recently, "Thank you for your tapes. We are a newspaper now." So, now he knows.


 JAMES L. JOHNSON, Chief
 Radio and Television Division